

## Mubarak pledges Sudan mediation

KHARTOUM (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak resumed Sunday from a brief visit to Sudan during which he said that Egypt was mediating between the Sudanese government and southern rebels. Speaking to reporters shortly after arriving at Khartoum airport Sunday morning to participate in celebrations marking the 34th anniversary of Sudan's independence, Mubarak said: "We have contacts with the Sudanese government and our relations with the south are strong. We are doing our utmost to solve the problem which only benefits the Sudanese people and the Sudanese people." Mubarak was greeted at Khartoum airport by Sudan's military leader General Hassan At Thar, and soon off by his plane. Mubarak met with Sudan's foreign minister and then attended a joint session of the ruling 15-member military council. The Egyptian president helped inaugurate the celebrations marking the anniversary of Sudan's 1956 independence. He told attending officials that both the government and the rebels had to work for stability and unity in the country.

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Happy New Year!

The Jordan Times will not be published on Tuesday Jan. 2, 1990, due to the New Year holiday on Monday. The next issue of the newspaper will be published Wednesday Jan. 3, 1990. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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Scenes from Sunday's session of the Lower House of Parliament. (Photos by Youssef Al Allan)

Confidence vote expected to be taken today

## Parliament continues debate on government

By Lami K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the Lower House of Parliament continued its session Sunday on the programme of the government of Mudar Badran, indications emerged that chances of the government securing a vote of confidence appeared to hinge on the final position of the Muslim Brotherhood, which controls the strongest bloc in the legislative authority.

Three deputies, including two Islamists and one leftist, said they were withholding their vote of

confidence from the government, and several others said that their position depended on Badran's willingness to concede to a set of preconditions ranging from a "limited reshuffle" of his cabinet to an immediate lifting of martial law.

The position of the Muslim Brotherhood remained unclear especially after one member of the 22-strong bloc, Abdul Munim Abu Zant, said he would vote against the government.

In the first session Saturday, a bloc of 20 Islamists, comprising Muslim Brotherhood members and independent Islamists, pre-

sented a list of 14 demands, including stricter application of Islamic laws, a six-month deadline for total abolition of martial law and the reinstatement of civil servants fired for political reasons as well as increased support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The bloc's spokesman, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, said the group's vote in favour or against Badran depended on the prime minister pledging to meet their demands.

At first Sheikh Abu Zant's rejectionist stand appeared to herald a change in the situation. Speculations were raised that

some of the members of the 20-member group could have been influenced by Abu Zant's stance and they could also reject any "compromise" with the government. However, Arabiyat explained later to reporters that Abu Zant's remarks did not necessarily reflect the Brotherhood's position or influence its members.

In general, most of the 14 deputies who took the floor Sunday praised the steps taken by the government towards liberalisation and relaxation of security restrictions on political activities, but demanded an immediate and

complete lifting of martial law and the release of political prisoners.

They also demanded a halt to "intelligence interference with the daily lives of citizens" and a repeal of the 1939 defence law and the 1986 electoral law, which they described as emphasising "ethnic and sectarian divisions."

At least half a dozen deputies, mostly representing traditionalist thinking and tribes, expressed total support for the government and presented their respective demands for economic and industrial as well as educational and health services development in

their respective constituencies.

Representatives of organised leftist groups which entered parliament for the first time since 1957, when all parties were banned, called for the legalisation of the existing political groups and a repeal of the 1953 law against communism.

Three deputies, publicly acknowledging that they were representatives of the banned Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) — formerly the Jordanian wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine — and the Popular Front for

the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), indicated they were abstaining from the confidence vote.

Sources close to the three groups said their main concern was to encourage and give a chance for Jordan's democratic experiment.

In a lengthy speech, which amounted to a political programme, Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa) of the JPDP, said that he was abstaining and "will judge the cabinet according to its performance."

Former Foreign Minister Taher Masri, currently deputy of Am-

man, also called for the legalisation of political parties but said there was no need for a national charter to regulate the organisation and activities of political parties in Jordan.

"In light of the Jordanian Constitution... at present we do not need to find any new formula to parallel or overshadow the Constitution," Masri argued. He did not indicate he would vote in favour or against the government.

Leftist Deputy Fakhri Kassar said that he was withholding his

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## Israeli peace activists assail police brutality

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Peace activists Sunday accused Israeli police of brutality and overreaction in breaking up a "human peace chain" by 15,000 Palestinians, Israelis and Europeans.

Police firing tear-gas, rubber bullets and water cannon wounded 71 people during the hand-linking ceremony on Saturday. The violence was among the worst in Jerusalem since the outbreak two years ago of the uprising.

At least 15,000 Israeli, Palestinian and foreigners took part in the two-hour human chain event called "1990 — Time for Peace."

Italy Reshef, a leader of Israel's Peace Now movement that helped organise the chain and supports adjoining separate Israeli and Palestinian states, told reporters:

"Our primary efforts were spent calming the police who stood with their finger on the trigger, listening to every chant for anything other than the most popular chant which was: 'We want peace'."

He disputed police accusations that hundreds of protesters shouted "extremist" slogans, hurled stones and unfurled Palestinian flags in the Old City.

Police spokesman Uzi Sandori said that in Saturday's rally 45 arrests were made and 25 people were injured by rubber bullets and tear-gas, including an Italian woman who lost her eye after a water cannon was used. Organisers estimated 50 people were injured.

Sandori said several police were hit by the stones and bottles. The cabinet and parliament's internal affairs committee debated the issue Sunday.

Israeli media said the Italian government lodged protests with Israel, one for the detention of an Italian visitor at a protest Friday and the other over the police action at Saturday's rally.

Israel's foreign ministry declined comment. On Friday, 16 were arrested after police used tear-gas and rubber bullets to break up a protest march by 3,000 Palestinian, Israeli and European women.

Reshef said Sunday: "I can't tell you some boy or other didn't throw a stone somewhere because we haven't finished our investigation. But stone-throwing like we've seen over the last two years of the intifada didn't take place."

He said police fired rubber bullets indiscriminately.

Israel has been accused worldwide of using excessive force in its attempts to quell the Palestinian uprising.

Makassed hospital in Arab Jerusalem said most of the 70 people it treated were Palestinians who inhaled tear-gas but some were hit by rubber bullets or beaten.

St. John's hospital said an Italian woman identified as Marzia Manou, 40, of Naples, lost her right eye when water fired by a police cannon broke a window of the Arab Jerusalem hotel where she sought refuge.

Palestinian nationalist Faisal Hussein said despite the violence, the human chain was "a historic event" that would help persuade Israelis to support the creation of a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish one.

Israeli leftist Dedi Zucker of the opposition Citizens Rights Movement said he believed Palestinians broke the organisers' agreement to stage a peaceful march but the police action was brutal and out of proportion.

"I saw how police with no need began to beat people which in the end provoked the burning of a car and resulted in the firing of gas



An Israeli policeman swings a baton at demonstrators forming a 'human peace chain' in occupied Jerusalem Saturday.

and water. I think responsibility must be divided between the two sides," he said.

In the West Bank, the army imposed curfews on the Hebron market and Ramallah, bastions of

Palestinian activism, ahead of Fatah day Jan. 1 which commemorates the first military action by Fatah in 1965.

Palestinian leaders of the uprising have called for celebrations to

mark the anniversary. The army has sent in reinforcements to the occupied territories.

In the Gaza Strip, a 38-year-old

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## Panama to ask Noriega be handed over for trial

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama will file criminal charges Tuesday against deposed strongman General Manuel Noriega and ask that he be handed over to the Panamanian government to face them, Panama's attorney general said Sunday.

Diplomatic sources said the charges could be a first step towards sending Noriega, who has been holed up in the Vatican embassy since Dec. 24, for trial in the United States.

"We have charges against General Manuel Antonio Noriega and we are going to ask for his preventive detention and that he be turned over to the government of Panama," said the attorney general, Rogelio Cruz.

Cruz, speaking at a news conference, did not say what charges would be brought, but hinted they could be linked to the deaths of three officers killed in the

failed coup against Noriega Oct. 3.

He said the charges could also involve drug trafficking. "If I have evidence that someone has been trafficking in drugs I will initiate a case against him and demand his trial here in Panama," he said.

Cruz said the charges would be filed Tuesday.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican. Diplomatic sources said the Panamanian government was considering drawing up a new extradition treaty which would allow Noriega to be sent to the United States, where he faces drug trafficking charges.

Panama's Catholic bishops had written to Pope John Paul on Saturday recommending that Noriega be handed over to authorities and stand trial.

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## Romanian decree promises multi-party democracy

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — Romanian's revolutionary new leaders issued a decree Sunday guaranteeing the establishment of a multi-party political system after almost 45 years of Communist rule.

The announcement broadcast over television was expected to help allay concern expressed by some intellectuals and students that the ruling National Salvation Front might go back on its commitment to democracy.

The decree from the front, which has run the country since the overthrow and Christmas Day execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, also set out rules for registering new political parties.

Only extremist groups would be barred. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Bucharest next weekend for the first top-level Kremlin contact since Romania's revolutionary leaders toppled Ceausescu.

Western diplomats say the visit, just two weeks after Ceausescu's overthrow and execution, indicates Moscow is confident the National Salvation Front fully controls the political and security situation in Romania.

Two weeks after protest turned to surrection, the death toll from the Romanian revolution remains unknown with estimates ranging from hundreds to tens of thousands.

The first sketchy witness accounts of rebellion in the western city of Timisoara estimated at the number of dead in the hun-

drads, then thousands.

Then the revolution spread to Transylvania and finally to the capital, Bucharest.

As street fighting escalated between security forces loyal to Ceausescu and army units allied with young revolutionaries, so too did the death toll. Estimates rose as high as 70,000 at one point.

But last week French health officials were told that 746 people had died in the entire revolution.

Western diplomats, using witness accounts and their own assessments, now estimate that some 10,000 people died.

The country headed into the New Year in joyous mood, but the provisional government — which has promised free elections by April — warned of a possible wave of violence from renegades of the Securitate secret police still on the run.

Despite fears of further shooting, Bucharest's snow-dusted streets were thronged Sunday with people buying mistletoe, flowers and gifts to mark the new year.

One Romanian said leaflets had been found in public places saying in reference to the dead dictator: "Christmas was yours. The new year will be ours."

State television reported that the former head of the security service, General Ilie Vlad, and two former deputy interior ministers with senior military rank had been suspended within the army and detained for investigation.

## Shamir fires Weizman for PLO contacts, triggers crisis

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sacked Jewish Science Minister Ezer Weizman Sunday, accusing him of breaking Israeli law by meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and maintaining contacts with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

His shock announcement threw Israel's "national unity" government into disarray. Ministers from Weizman's Labour Party threatened to pull out unless Shamir reversed his decision.

The collapse of the coalition between Shamir's hardline Likud party and Labour would put his proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories on hold pending formation of a new right-wing government or elections.

"I want to inform the government that I decided to remove Minister Ezer Weizman from his post... Minister Weizman conducted direct and indirect contacts with the PLO for an extended period in violation of the

law and the guidelines of the government," Shamir said in a statement to the cabinet.

"He met... with an official representative of the PLO in a European state and recently sent messages to the head of the PLO, Arafat, and received messages from him through a messenger."

Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, said: "There is no doubt this plunges the country into a serious crisis, the likes of which have never been seen."

Weizman, an architect of Israel's 1979 treaty with Egypt, said he was surprised to hear about Shamir's decision. He received his dismissal letter after Shamir's announcement to the cabinet.

He refused to confirm or deny Shamir's accusations but told Israel Radio: "Whether I met anyone or not is not important. What is important is that this is a positive crisis that will force the Labour Party to decide where it is

headed."

In Baghdad, Arafat said Sunday that neither he nor anyone in his movement had met with Weizman.

However, the PLO chief admitted that a meeting between Weizman and a PLO official was supposed to take place in Moscow two years ago, but was cancelled when the Israeli minister failed to show up.

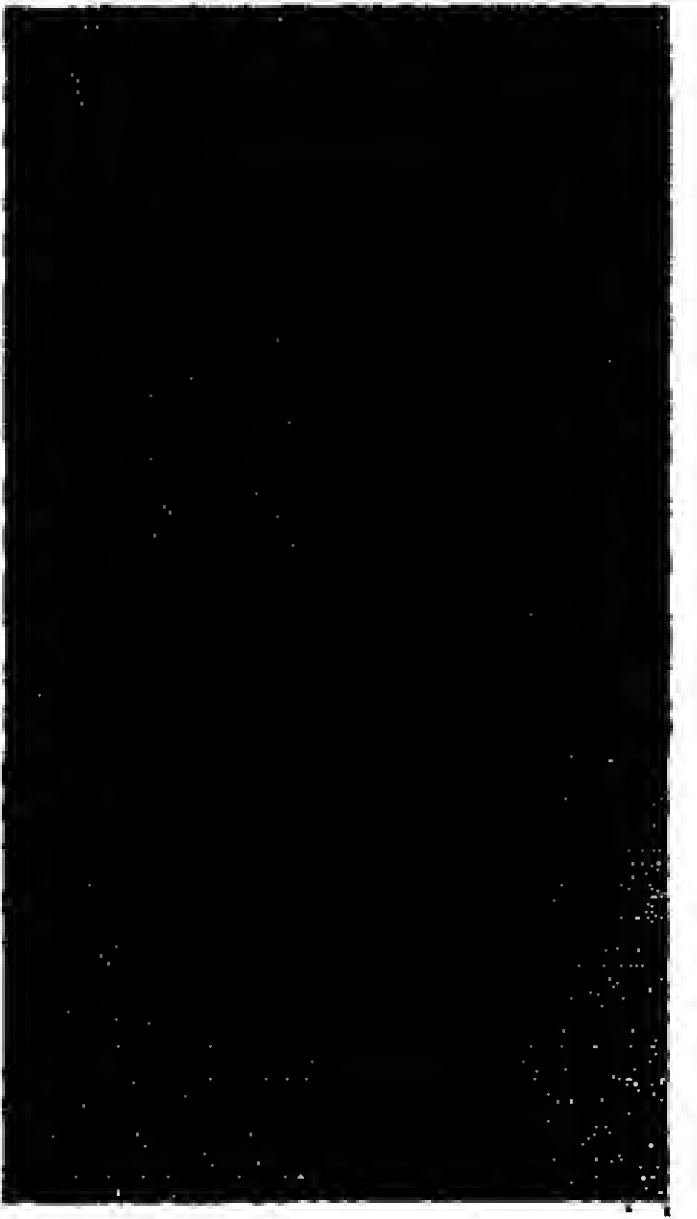
Arafat spoke at a news conference in Baghdad.

"Nothing of the sort happened," Arafat said when asked about Shamir's accusation. "Shamir is looking for a scapegoat for the failure of his policies."

Arafat said: "A go-between arranged for a meeting to take place between Weizman and a PLO official in Moscow in 1987. But Weizman did not make it to Moscow."

He said the PLO never received any explanation for the cancellation of the trip.

Arafat would not name the



Ezer Weizman

PLO official who was supposed to meet with Weizman apparently for security considerations.

Arafat also did not name the go-between.

But a Palestinian source, reached in Kuwait by the AP telephoned from Nicosia, said the mediator might have been Roma-

(Continued on page 3)

## Amal, Hizbollah reject PLO intervention bid

BEIRUT (R) — Rival Shi'ite militias have rejected a Palestinian effort to stop their battles for control of South Lebanon.

Security sources said militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) exchanged mortar and machinegun fire along the strategic hilltop strip of Iqlim Al Tufah, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

There were no casualties in the latest clashes, the sources said. At least 55 people have been killed and 215 wounded in battles which flared last week.

The fighting eased Friday night after fighters loyal to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat were deployed in the area.

"Our military presence on the battle-ground has become a disengagement force. We can now guarantee that the combat area is very limited," Zaid Wehbeh, Arafat's representative in Lebanon, told Reuters. He said Arafat made the decision.

Palestinian sources said the de-

ployment of PLO fighters was aimed at stopping Hizbollah from gaining more ground in the direction of two Palestinian camps in the port city of Sidon where tens of thousands of refugees live.

But Amal chief Nabih Berri, determined to recover five villages gained by Hizbollah, rejected the initiative and said his group would not accept the deployment of any disengagement force, "Palestinian or otherwise."

A Hizbollah source said the militants were not concerned about the Palestinian deployment and doubted it would be effective.

"We refuse to withdraw from our newly-captured positions before receiving guarantees that the past peace agreements with Amal will be carried out."

In Damascus, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Besharati met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa to discuss the fighting. The Iranian news agency, IRNA, said both officials called on the rival factions to make peace.

# Few bright hopes for Lebanese at end of disastrous decade

By Simon Martin  
Reuters

BEIRUT — With Kalashnikovs and champagne, Lebanese Sunday marked the end of a deadly year and disastrous decade with few bright hopes for the 1990s.

While revellers shoot into the air in the customary display of festive firepower, thousands of troops encircling or defending the country's Christian enclave were spending another night on edge alert.

President Elias Hrawi, still barred from his palace in the enclave five weeks after taking office, appealed for a new year of peace and unity.

But few predict an early end to the effective partition of the tiny country where a Maronite Christian president, recognised internationally, controls the mainly Muslim part of the country and a defiant Christian general holds the presidential palace and Christian enclave around it.

"Ten years, the hardest and craziest in Lebanon, have elapsed. A lot of things have changed," said a commentary entitled "The Mad Decade" in the French-language *Nouveau magazine*.

After some of the worst shelling, which brought nearly 900 deaths, and the most intensive Arab peacekeeping effort of the 14-year-old civil war, 1988, ended with the rival administrations still vying for power.

Syrian troops supporting Hrawi's new government are dug in facing the enclave, which is defended by 15,000 regular soldiers loyal to Christian General Michel Aoun and the 12,000-strong Lebanese Forces rightist militia.

Aoun insists he is still prime minister and continues to reject Hrawi's authority and a peace plan approved in October by Lebanese deputies in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

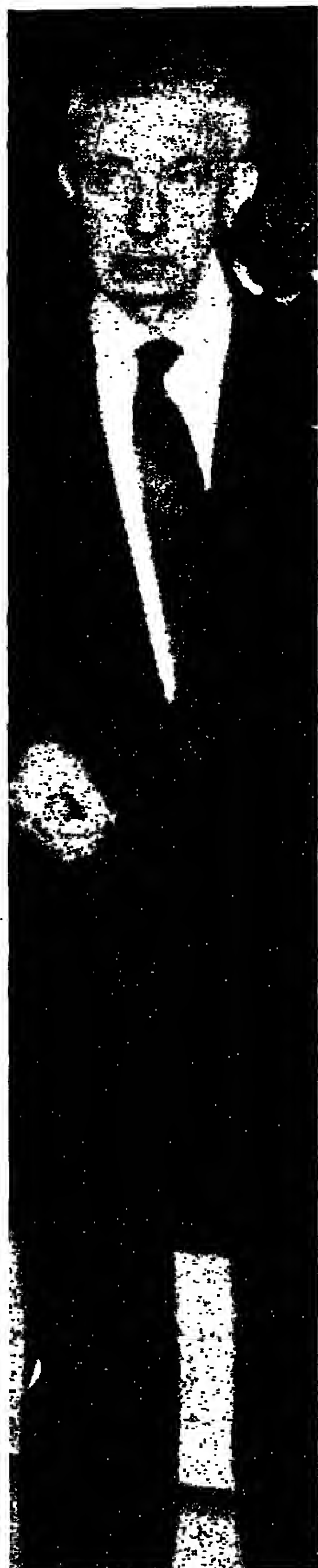
"The objective of 1990 is to reconcile Aoun to Taif or Taif to Aoun," said one diplomat, doubting that either was possible.

The Taif accord shifts power from a Maronite Christian president to a Muslim-led cabinet but fails to provide for a pullout of Syria's 45,000 troops. Aoun says Damascus will swallow Lebanon if Taif is accepted.

Panic has subsided since late November when an attack by Syrian troops on the enclave seemed imminent.

The diplomat said a full-scale military assault would seem unlikely in the near future. But this time last year, he added, no one could have predicted the six months of shelling which followed Aoun's declared "war of liberation" against Syria.

"I think it has become clear that it is not possible to get Aoun out in a surgical strike



Elias Hrawi

without a good deal of bloodshed," he said.

## Uncertainty

Political analysts believe the standoff could continue for weeks or months. Industrialists will delay badly-needed investment, developers will leave buildings half-finished and people on both sides of Beirut's dividing green line will continue living in uncertainty.

"Till Hrawi gets to Baabda Palace and asserts some authority over Aoun, he will not establish any credibility. That's

the problem," the diplomat said. "Other countries will go through the motions of taking him seriously."

"Aoun for his part thinks there will be a great change of opinion internationally, persuading the Syrians to withdraw or come to terms with him. But he is looking for the impossible."

"Aoun still has most public support in the enclave. The question is how long it will last. We may see the start of a gradual falling away of support."

Intensified economic pressure and military moves may be used to try to fragment Aoun's backing from the grassroots Christian community and his troops.

Military analysts said some Syrian soldiers had been pulled out of frontlines but units in the north had been reinforced.

"The Syrians could make a series of moves in the north sufficiently frightening to accelerate the process of declining confidence," the diplomat said.

"It's a long-term process: whether Hrawi can wait that long is another matter."

## Hrawi's pledge

Hrawi has promised to give the Lebanese a "strong and capable state" in a year-end message.

"My primary goal is to save Lebanon... no one can replace the state," Hrawi said in his five-minute speech broadcast by radio and television stations.

Hrawi made his address from his headquarters at the army barracks in Ablah in the Bekaa Valley.

"Reconciliation is the path to reforms," Hrawi said. "I extend my hand to each one of you to rectify the errors of the past, deal with the problems of the present and chart together the course of the future."

## 5-year-old killed

A sniper killed five-year-old Ralf Rikallah in Beirut Sunday as he played on the balcony of his home while his parents were preparing to celebrate New Year's Eve, hospital sources said.

They said the child was hit in the stomach by a sniper's bullet fired from west Beirut. The boy's home is in east Beirut near the city's dividing green line.

"He was playing on the balcony with his father when his mother called her husband to the kitchen to help her prepare for celebrating New Year's Eve," said one sobbing relative.

"The father heard a bump on the balcony and went to see what it was... it was little Ralf lying on the ground in a pool of his blood," she said.

The child was taken to hospital but doctors failed to save him.



Murdered rebels near Herat in Afghanistan. The rebels are bogged down in a war which they thought they could win after the February withdrawal of Soviet forces from the country.

# Afghan rebels deny role in coup attempt

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Rebels said Sunday that the Afghan government was trying to link them to a recent coup attempt in order to hide from Moscow a serious split in Kabul's ruling Communist Party.

Kabul officials Saturday said a group connected with the Hezb-i-Islami guerrilla faction based in neighbouring Pakistan had infiltrated top levels of the Soviet-backed party and the Afghan military.

They said 127 members of the ring, including three generals, have been arrested since early December for plotting to overthrow President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

"This is propaganda," said a Hezb-i-Islami spokesman who uses the single name Mahmud. "All these are PDPA members. They are against Najibullah and his Parcham (banner) faction of the party," he said. The opposing faction, which dominates the military, called Khalq, which means "the masses."

Mahmud said the Hezb-i-Islami does have underground cells operating within the Afghan military. But he said the latest arrests were only a purge of Khalq members who oppose Najibullah.

He said Najibullah wanted to blame problems on the Hezb-i-Islami in order to convince the Soviet Union that his PDPA was unified.



Najibullah

Soviet troops ended nine years of direct military involvement in Afghanistan's bitter civil war last February, but Moscow continues to support Najibullah.

The Red Army intervened in 1979 to replace a Khalq government with a Parcham one — both of which were pro-Soviet — then stayed to help fight a growing insurgency by U.S.-backed rebels.

Moscow continues to back Afghanistan's Communists through a massive military airlift and overland convoys.

The Khalq and Parcham factions of the PDPA have been at odds almost since the Party's conception in the 1960s. They have

attempted to embrace in a shaky truce for the past decade at the urging of the Soviet Union.

Mahmud said one of Hezb-i-Islami's operatives, named Zia, and several associates were arrested by the Kabul government last summer, but that there have been no significant arrests of rebel agents since then.

"They're relating (December's arrests) with the capture last summer," he said.

Hezb-i-Islami's hard-line leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, claimed Oct. 19 that his group was working with several clandestine cells within the Afghan army to stage a coup.

He refused to give details. Several rebel leaders have predicted either the collapse of the PDPA or a military mutiny following this year's Soviet troop withdrawal, but neither have occurred.

Despite widespread expectations of their defeat, the Communists have held onto Afghanistan's major cities in the face of an all-out guerrilla siege.

The insurgents control most of the countryside but remain vulnerable to the government's air power and long-range artillery.

Rebel groups, based primarily in Pakistan and Iran, are fighting to establish a guerrilla-led Islamic government in their homeland. They have refused to negotiate with Najibullah or any prominent PDPA officials.

# Noriega 'aide' back in Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Michael Harari, a former Israeli spy reportedly arrested by U.S. troops in Panama, has returned to Israel, Israeli television reported late Sunday.

U.S. embassy officials in Panama had identified Harari as a top security advisor to deposed Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega and an instructor to his military.

Israeli television said sources in Harari's family revealed that he was back in the country, but provided no further details.

The defence and foreign ministries have consistently refused to comment on Harari's case saying he is a private citizen.

Harari rather talked his way out of custody or was mistakenly identified by U.S. authorities, according to U.S. embassy officials in Panama City.

"They thought they had him," said a senior embassy official said "on further checking either they didn't have him — most probable — or he convinced them he was someone else," said the official, who asked not to be identified. "I think we are doubtful that he is in-country at this time."

The official had said on Thursday, without giving details, that Harari, 62, had been taken into custody a day earlier by U.S. troops, who invaded Panama Dec. 20.

Panamanian officials have de-

scribed him as an unofficial go-between for their country and Israel. Israeli officials have denied any official connection.

Harari was Noriega's commercial attaché and honorary consul in Israel after having retired from the Israeli intelligence service in 1979.

A former intelligence chief for Latin America, he first met Noriega in 1973 when the general headed Panama's G-2 intelligence unit for the late Omar Torrijos who died in a 1981 plane crash. Harari played an integral role in developing the Panamanian Defence Forces, serving as an adviser.

He also trained and recruited Noriega's personal security detail, which included former Israeli soldiers and Cuban military advisers.

A former Panamanian diplomat who served in Israel and returned last week from exile in the United States said Harari took kickbacks from Israeli businessmen who sought to invest here in the 1980s.

Eduardo Herrera Hassan, chosen to head the new Panamanian security force that is to replace the PDF, said the kickbacks were split with Noriega.

He also has been linked to reported arms shipments to U.S.-backed rebels that were paid for by drug proceeds. The charges have never been proved.

# Israel paid Ceausescu cash for immigrants

OCCUPIED (AP) — Israel paid thousands of dollars in cash to Nicolae Ceausescu for every Romanian Jew he allowed to emigrate to this country, an Israeli newspaper has revealed.

For years, Ceausescu received between \$5,000 and \$7,000 for every emigration visa issued to Jews, and some \$50 to \$60 million ended up in the executed Romanian dictator's own pocket, the Yediot Aharont said in its weekend edition.

Quoting reliable sources, the paper said that the official agencies responsible for immigration in Israel, including the foreign ministry and the pseudo-governmental Jewish Agency, acknowledged that Ceausescu was paid but would not give accurate figures.

Israeli officials reportedly knew of the payoffs for years, but they dared not expose or publicize it for fear it would halt immigration from Romania, Yediot said.

"Even we, like Israel, knew of the payment for Jewish emigration, but our interest was the protection of the Jews in Romania and not of what kind of dictator Ceausescu was," the paper quoted an unnamed official involved in the deals.

According to the paper, the money given Ceausescu was not "state funds" but was money raised by various Jewish organisations. It said reliable sources among the Jewish community in the U.S. confirmed that Ceausescu had received the money for the past 20 years.

Edgar Bronfman, the head of the World Jewish Congress, cultivated close ties with Ceausescu and even visited the Romanian ruler in 1988 and was asked to help Romania keep its economically "favoured nation" status, the paper said.

The English language Jerusalem Post said the money was handed over in suitcase filled with U.S. dollars.

The head of the immigration and absorption committee in the Knesset, or parliament, Michael Kloner, told Yediot that helping bring Romanian Jews to Israel was a "life-saving" issue and therefore "all necessary steps were kosher."

Motti Amichai, a spokesman for the foreign ministry, said they knew of no such deals with Romania.

"We are not relating to the story. I don't know where they came up with it," he said.

# 'Ceausescu wanted secret Israeli-PLO meetings'

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Palestinian leader said in remarks published Sunday that executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu tried to arrange secret meetings between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

Kuwait's Al-Sayassah newspaper quoted Salah Khalaf, an aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, as saying Israel rebuffed Ceausescu's mediation.

"The PLO had agreed, but... they (the Israelis) failed his attempts to hold secret meetings in Bucharest between the two sides," said Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad.

"Ceausescu tried with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir and (former Prime Minister Shi-

mon) Peres, but he failed," said Khalaf.

Romania was the only East bloc country that did not cut ties with Israel after the 1967 war.

Khalaf said Ceausescu, who was executed last week after being overthrown, had described former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as a great man for recovering Sinai in 1979 treaty with Israel.

Ceausescu accused Palestinian leaders of being selfish and only looking after their own interests, Khalaf said.

"Ceausescu was for the establishment of a Palestinian state and self-determination, but he believed in the theory of stages," Khalaf was quoted as saying.

# Sudan leader accuses relief workers of arming rebels

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's military ruler repeated government charges Sunday that weapons were reaching rebels in southern Sudan through a famine relief operation led by the United Nations.

General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir also said the relief programme was biased in favour of the guerrillas and had allowed many people in government-held areas to starve to death.

"Sudan does not specifically accuse the United Nations or relief organisations belonging to

donor countries of smuggling arms and ammunition to the rebels through Operation Lifeline Sudan," Bashir told the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA).

"The accusation is directed against some individuals employed by these organisations, objectives and inclinations which they want to realise through the programme."

U.N. officials were not immediately available for comment on Bashir's remarks, which echoed charges made earlier this

month by a member of his military junta, Colonel Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa. A U.N. official in Amman denied the charges then.

But an internal U.N. memorandum obtained by Reuters said U.N. officials had asked in vain for the authorities to produce that Khalifa said was irrefutable evidence that arms were being smuggled to the rebels through Operation Lifeline.

It said Khalifa's charge contradicted with official statements supporting U.N. efforts to pre-

vent famine in the south, ravaged by more than six years of war between government troops and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"The Khartoum government, although it represents the state's sovereignty, never received relief supplies except after the approval of the rebels," Bashir told SUNA.

"But when the rebels asked for relief, they received it without government approval," he said, adding that this led to many people in government-held areas

starving to death.

Operation Lifeline ended Oct. 31 after sending more than 100,000 tonnes of supplies, mostly food, to the south where an estimated quarter of a million people died on 1988 of hunger or disease stemming from the war.

Bashir said his government, which suspended relief flights late October, was studying plans for a similar relief operation for 1990. He added that it would inspect the cargoes of all relief planes flying to the south.

About 3.5 million people, more than half the population, have fled the south in search of food and security elsewhere. U.N. officials said thousands were likely to desert homes in the Bahr Al Ghazal region shortly because of a food shortage there.

Attempts to negotiate a truce between the government and the SPLA have fallen down largely on the issue of Islamic laws, detested by most people in the largely Christian or animist south.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Korna  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programmes  
15:50 ..... News summary in Arabic  
15:55 ..... World News  
16:00 ..... Local programme  
16:05 ..... Programme review  
16:10 ..... News in Arabic  
16:15 ..... Arabic series  
16:20 ..... Programme review  
16:25 ..... Local programmes  
16:30 ..... News summary in Arabic

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
16:30 ..... Nick, Chassier des Etes  
16:40 ..... News in French  
16:45 ..... Weekly Sport magazine  
16:50 ..... News in Hebrew  
16:55 ..... Varieties  
17:00 ..... Empty Nest  
17:05 ..... Kana and Abel  
17:10 ..... News in English  
17:15 ..... Cassidy

## PRAYER TIMES

05:00 ..... Fair  
06:31 ..... (Sunrise) Dhara  
11:38 ..... Dhara  
14:23 ..... 'Asr  
16:46 ..... Maghrib  
18:40 ..... Taba

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740  
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771231  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
The country will be under the effect of a depression accompanied by a cold front. Thus it will be cold and partly cloudy to cloudy with expected rain in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Eastern and southern areas

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

will be dusty and partly cloudy. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and sea very.

Amman ..... 2/14  
Aqaba ..... 9/19  
Dahsh ..... 2/16  
Jordan Valley ..... 9/20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalid Ma'adi ..... 745500  
Dr. Mohammed Al-Sawa ..... 723556  
Dr. Ahmad Al-Natour ..... 653934  
Dr. Ahmad Othman ..... 786384  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 771334  
Al-Ahli pharmacy ..... 637025  
Nawroth pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al-Salam pharmacy ..... 636750  
Yaacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Sulaiman pharmacy ..... 637660

Al-Sharraf pharmacy ..... 985238  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Hussein Mahmoud ..... (-)  
Khalifa pharmacy ..... 985417

## EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630441  
Rescue ..... 630441  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 771212  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 603800  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 877111  
Complaints ..... 877111  
Telephone Information ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdel Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 771111  
Radio Jordan ..... 771111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Aoun ..... 644281/6  
Al-Salam Maternity, J. Aoun ..... 644412/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 63140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 664174  
Sulaiman Hospital ..... 845845  
University Hospital ..... 666174  
Al-Muhsin Hospital ..... 666277/9  
The Islamic, Abdel ..... 666277/9  
Al-Ahli, Abdel ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhsin ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marika ..... 891617/5  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 62240/30  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
IBRD:  
Zaqra Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983322  
Zaqra National Hospital ..... (09)91071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)96732  
PIH:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)755555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)727273  
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (09)314111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

## QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)32005, where it should always be verified.

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:45 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
09:40 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:40 ..... Sana'a (RJ)  
09:40 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Doha, Kuwait (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Baghdad (RJ)

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:10 ..... Sana'a (LJ)  
10:00 ..... Baghdad (TA)  
10:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
10:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (GF)  
10:00 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Baghdad (AF)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Vienna, Montreal, New York (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
06:15 ..... London (BA)  
06:15 ..... Beirut (ME)  
06:15 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
10:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
11:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
12:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price is lbs per kg.  
Apple ..... 420/380  
Banana ..... 430/400  
Banana (Mekong) ..... 400/350  
Beans ..... 380/320  
Cabbage ..... 220/180  
Carrot ..... 220/180  
Cauliflower ..... 180/140  
Cucumber (large) ..... 200/150  
Cucumber (small) ..... 400/350  
Dates ..... 500/400  
Eggplant ..... 180/120  
Garlic ..... 180/120  
Grapefruit ..... 240/180  
Lemon ..... 200/150  
Marrow (large) ..... 320/180  
Marrow (small) ..... 200/150  
Onion (dry) ..... 120/180  
Onion (green) ..... 160/120  
Orange ..... 200/150  
Orange (Shamoni) ..... 300/250  
Pepper (hot) ..... 220/180  
Potato ..... 280/220  
Raddish ..... 140/100  
Sage ..... 450/400  
Spinach ..... 300/250  
Tomatoes ..... 300/250

## Work under way on building more schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work is under way for the implementation of the first phase of a project to build 430 school buildings in the Kingdom by the year 1998, according to Ministry of Education Secretary-General Muntaser Al Masri.

Locations for the schools in the first stage have been chosen and studies are near complete in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Masri added in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Masri said the plan was in line with recommendations and resolutions passed by the first national educational conference held in Amman in 1987.

The resolutions also call for reviewing and updating textbooks and providing higher training for

teachers. Masri said the first stage of the plan entails building 100 schools by the year 1992, the second covers 150 schools between 1992 and 1995 and in the third stage a total of 180 schools will be built between 1995 and 1998.

He said the schools were needed to dispose off rented buildings and to end the two-shift school days in Jordan.

At present 150 government schools run two-shift school days in view of the shortage of school buildings and have a one-day week-end Friday, while the rest of the government schools started to have a two-day weekend on Thursdays and Fridays as of October 1989 after extending their school days by 45 minutes each day to make up for the school hours on Thursdays.

## JTV tightens its belt, seeks more sponsors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Television (JTV) will soon be launching a campaign through the media to try to enlist sponsorship from various organizations and local companies for its programmes in the new year, according to Zaid Fariz, director of Jordan Television programmes department.

He told the Jordan Times Sunday that the Housing Bank and another local company had financed and sponsored a number of programmes telecast earlier by JTV. The door will now be open for others to sponsor and finance the screening of major world events like the 1990 World Soccer Cup championship to be held in Italy, he said.

At the same time, Jordan Television will also try to reduce expenses by repeating a number of earlier programmes but will continue to provide viewers with a set of good quality programmes to meet all tastes, according to Fariz.

Jordan Television has decided to cut the duration of its programmes until 11 p.m., thus doing away with a number of programmes or rescheduling them between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. One of the programmes, which had been on the repeat in the previous cycle was "Three's Company," a popular American television comedy, will be dropped in the coming cycle, according to Fariz.

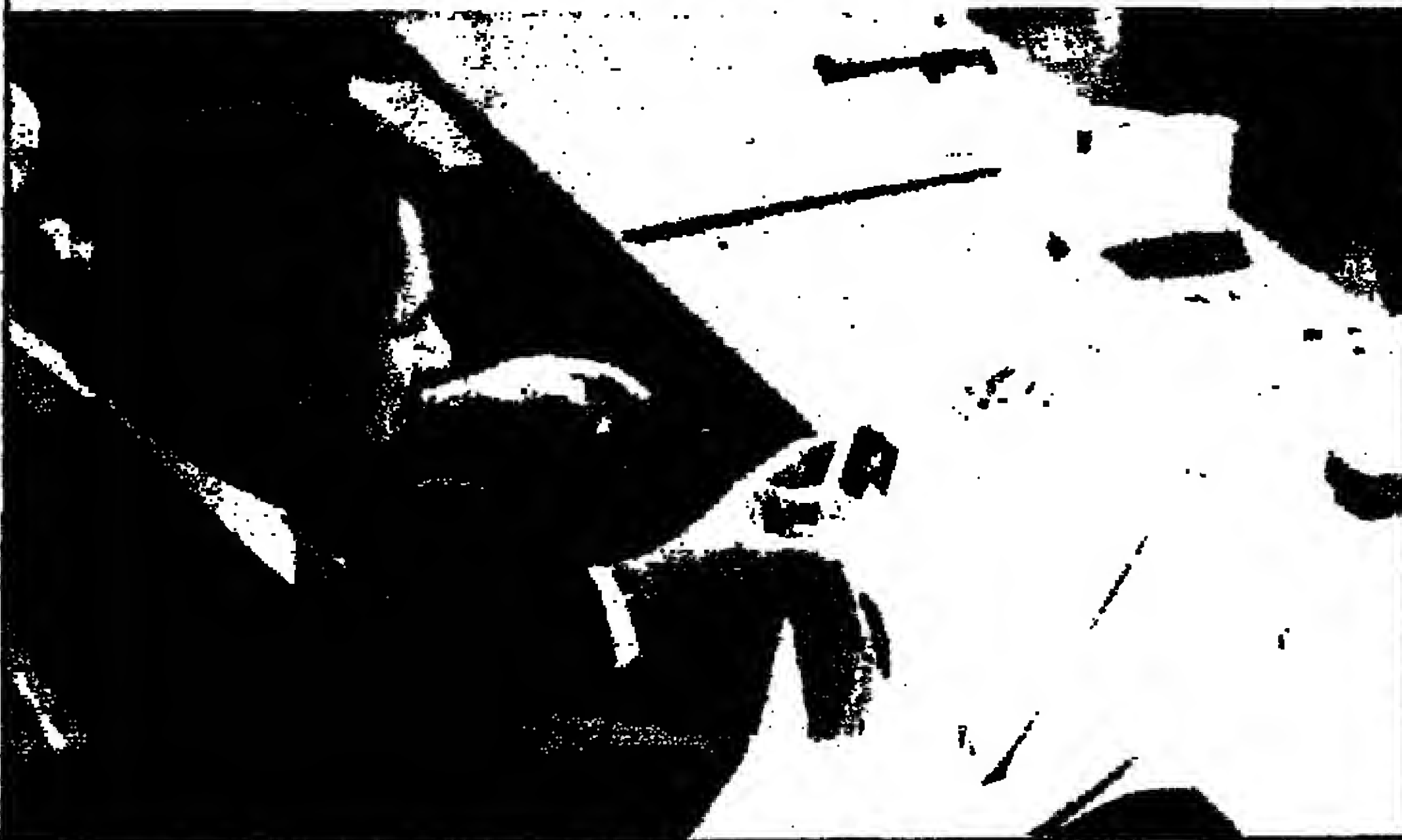
"It is not true that this is being done under pressure or criticism from Islamic activists or any other source as reported by a foreign news agency," Fariz stressed. He said that cutting the duration of television programmes was being done purely for economic reasons and to cut down on expenses.

Jordan Television programmes, he said, will be selected as best as possible with good quality material presented to the viewers but within the limited budget it has at its disposal.

However, the slimmed-down programmes appeared to have already upset some JTV viewers. "I understand the financial reasons," said a viewer who preferred anonymity. "But, to take off some of the most popular programmes — 'Three's Company' is one example — is not very fair," he commented.



TAKING TIME OFF: Lower House of Parliament members take time off to read newspapers at the Parliament chamber Sunday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



## JD 90 million allocated to development projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of JD 90 million in loans were allocated to the various development projects during the year 1990, including a JD 40 million loan by the World Bank, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The daily quoted Ministry of Finance sources as saying the World Bank loan would be used to finance a project for connecting Jordan with the national Jordanian electric grid, and the electrification of rural areas in Jordan, in addition to replacing the old water network in Amman and completing the water and sewerage projects in Zarqa and elsewhere in the Kingdom. Part of the World Bank loan will be used for financing the construction of nursing and midwifery school and a medical facility in Zarqa Governorate, urban development projects, and medical facility in Irbid and educational projects.

These loans include JD 15 million loan by the Japanese government towards financing the costs of constructing the following

roads: Azraq-Ruweished, Irbid-Jerash, Irbid-Kufri Youba and Salt-Kufri Houla.

The loans also include JD 10 million granted by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance costs of constructing Zarqa-Mafraq road, transfer of two gas turbines from Amman to Rishaah, and development of the Zarqa river basin, Hammad Basin project, and irrigation projects in the central Jordan Valley.

The Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development also provided a loan of JD 3.4 million to finance costs of connecting rural areas with electricity, expanding Wadi Al Yitum-south, Aqaba road to reach Al Wadi area.

The loans included JD 4 million provided by the Saudi Fund for Economic Development, JD 7 million by the United States Agency for International Development, \$ 3 million by the German Reconstruction Bank, and JD 500,000 from the Iraqi Fund, in addition to other sources.

## Jordanians killed in Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Jordanian students were among eight people killed when a six-storey apartment building collapsed in the Egyptian city of Alexandria, according to a report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sunday.

The agency gave the names of the two students as Ghazi Barakeh and Nabil Salameh Hama.

Petra also said three other students were injured in the collapse and gave their names as Ahmad Saeed Budeirat, Ahmad Hammad Askar and Mustafa Mohammad Yones.

It said that Budeirat was discharged from hospital after receiving treatment, while the other two were still undergoing treatment in Alexandria. According to Reuters news agency eight people were killed and 10 injured when the apartment building collapsed Friday night.

It said Egyptian police believed the building collapsed because its owners had illegally added two floors.

## Universities to keep reserved seats for West Bank students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian universities will continue to keep a reserve of 256 seats assigned for students from the occupied West Bank until the results of tawjihi (secondary school certificate examination) are announced next month, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday.

The report, quoting a decision by the Council of Higher Education in Amman, said that the four Jordanian universities would keep the door open for the eligible students from the West Bank who can enrol at the start of the spring semester which opens by the end of January.

The 256 seats constitute nearly 13 per cent of the total seats assigned to non-Jordanian Arab students for the 1989-1990

academic year, according to the report. It said that in implementation of a decision by the Council of Higher Education, the four universities assigned 1,264 seats for non-Jordanian Arab students, out of a total of 9,832 seats for this academic year.

According to the report, it had been rumoured that the seats could be given to Jordanians if the West Bank students fail to apply for them in view of the intifada and the current situation in the occupied territories.

The report also quoted officials at the University of Jordan as saying that there would be no chance for "special course" students to be admitted this year because the university last September accepted 3,988 regular students for the current year, raising the overall number of students to 17,349.

At present, all four universities are involved in end-of-the-term examinations which are due to end by Jan. 12.

University President Mahmoud Al Samra was quoted in December as saying that the door was open for a greater number of students this year in view of the fact that the majority of them cannot pay for their higher education abroad.

Among the present students, he said, there are 954 whose parents live abroad and are normally Jordanian expatriates, 521 from occupied Palestine, 945 non-Jordanian Arabs, 121 non-Arab students and 131 students on special courses.

## WFP extends highlands project for five years

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP), the food aid arm of the United Nations system has announced the approval of a five-year extension of its project to develop the highland agricultural regions of Jordan. WFP will contribute \$26 million to pay for food commodities and transportation.

WFP has assisted Jordan in agricultural development since 1964. Assistance to the highland agricultural regions started 15 years ago and the project will now enter its fourth phase. A WFP review of the project concluded that the project has exceeded its targets. In the area of soil conservation and fruit-tree planting, for example, the project achieved 122 per cent of the target, according to a WFP press release.

The new phase of the project is concentrated in the highland areas of the eleven districts of Irbid, Jerash, Salt, Amman,

Ajloun, Zarqa, Madaba, Karak, Mafraq, Tafleh and Ma'an and covers a total area of 15,000 hectares. Typical of these areas are very shallow soils, inefficient soil and water conservation methods and small land holdings.

WFP said it believes that crop production could increase significantly by making better use of the land and introducing better production methods. This project would help 7,500 poor farm households. Most of these farmers, who usually own less than five hectares, do not earn enough from agriculture to live on and rely on other means, which are increasingly difficult to find, according to WFP press release.

The project features several schemes designed to increase agricultural production and reduce soil erosion. In soil conservation, plans call for the construction of stone contour terraces, earth contour banks, etc. Over the five-year period fruit-

tree planting will take place on 15,000 hectares mainly with olive trees.

Other project activities include the construction of windbreakers, farm buildings and cisterns. Suitable fodder crop species will be planted as a pilot project in order to better integrate livestock raising with rainfed farming.

The WFP food aid will help compensate farmers for the temporary loss of income when they switch from wheat crop to fruit production. Farmers who regularly cultivated their land before planting it with fruit trees will receive 250 kilos of wheat per hectare every year during the first four years after the fruit orchard has been established. Additionally, each farmer will receive approximately 60 family rations of wheat flour, vegetable oil, pulses, canned cheese, sugar and tea during two years as an incentive to maintain the newly-planted trees.

## Sheep project in Hammad Basin takes definite shape

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee has concluded a feasibility study on a sheep-fattening project proposed to be set up in the Hammad Basin and work on the project will start early next year, according to a report carried by the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

The project, which aims to produce 600 tonnes of lean meat annually for the Syrian and Jordanian markets, will be set up on 250,000 hectares in the Hammad Basin, a semi-desert region with common borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia in addition to Syria and Jordan.

Jordan has already launched a socio-economic development scheme at Rweished within the basin and has drilled artesian wells and built mud dams and schools.

Shaab report, both Syria and Jordan suffer from a shortage of lean meat and the new project, which will also provide wool at the rate of 120 tonnes and 220 tonnes of milk annually, will go a long way towards meeting the two countries' needs of meat and dairy products.

The paper said that in the initial stage, a total of 15,000 heads of sheep would be raised at the project site rising to 40,000 in the 10th year. It said that nearly 150,000 hectares will be used purely for grazing purposes, providing nearly 80 per cent of feed for the animals while the rest would be in the form of concentrated fodders.

Apart from the pasture lands, the two sides plan to drill 11 artesian wells to provide water for the animals, and will plant shrubs which will provide an

additional amount of fodder, the paper added.

It said that the products of the joint project, to be situated in the north western regions of the basin, will be marketed primarily in Jordan and Syria.

Jordan imports nearly 70 per cent of its red meat and has launched the Awassi sheep improvement project to help meet part of the local market demands of lean meat and cut foreign currency expenditure. The European Community is providing assistance to the tune of JD 1.5 million to help the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) to carry out this project.

To make up for meat shortages, Jordan has been importing fresh meat from Turkey and Eastern European nations. Since February 1989, it started importing larger amounts of frozen meat from New Zealand.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITION

\* An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasil Gallery, Plaza Hotel.



A scene from Sunday's session of the Lower House (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Panama wants to try Noriega

(Continued from page 1)

Noriega was ousted from power by a U.S. military invasion Dec. 20. U.S. troops have surrounded the Vatican embassy for a week while diplomats pursued negotiations for his extradition or transfer.

Meanwhile, U.S. military and embassy officials gave varying accounts of a U.S. military raid Friday night on the house of Nicaragua's ambassador to Panama, Antonio Ferrer, which led Managua to expel 20 American diplomats in reprisal.

A senior U.S. embassy official told him the house had no outward identification. But journalists said a plaque on the wall clearly showed it to be a Nicaraguan embassy building.

A senior U.S. embassy official also suggested that Nicaragua might have provoked the incident because it was seeking an excuse to cut down U.S. diplomatic staff in Managua.

The State Department said Friday, however, it regretted the raid and President George Bush termed the operation a "screw-up."

Southern Command spokesman Colonel Ronald Sconyers said soldiers found a huge arsenal inside the house, including anti-tank weapons, rocket-propelled grenades, sub-machine guns and automatic rifles.

Sconyers said the soldiers went to the house acting on a tip that there was an arms cache inside. Warning shots were fired after the occupants ignored a request to leave, he said.

After Ferrer arrived, Sconyers said the soldiers telephoned the U.S. embassy for guidance and were told that the ambassador's official residence was elsewhere.

Southern Command said later that information given to the Foreign Ministry by the Nicaraguan embassy as late as Oct. 20 showed a different address for the residence.

## Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

nia's late leader Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed last week amid a reformist wave in the Communist country.

Labour Party leaders called an emergency meeting for Sunday night amid speculation whether a compromise could be reached or whether it would withdraw from the coalition government and force elections.

Labour, trailing in opinion polls, could damage its standing further by defending a minister who may have met the PLO.

Likud Environment Minister Ronnie Milo said Shamir told Peres of his plans last week so Weizman could be urged to resign rather than force a crisis.

But Peres said he kept the news to himself, telling Shamir it was the premier's job to inform Weizman. He criticised the prime minister for taking a decision before talking to Weizman privately.

## Deputies continue debate

(Continued from page 1)

vote of confidence and cited Badran's background as the head of the General Intelligence Department and cast doubts on the government's willingness to endorse "genuine democratisation" measures.

"Is this cabinet qualified to lead this stage? Is this 'structure' the real expression of the Jordanian political map and its nationalist forces?" asked Kawa, the only journalist in parliament.

"I declare that this government does not differ in its course from the previous government because it does not represent a wide sector of this people and did not emanate from the people," he asserted. "Your Excellency, how do you reconcile between your role in the intelligence which abused people's rights and your respect and praise of the same people when some of them became deputies under this dome?"

Earlier in the session, independent Islamist Leith Shbeilat, who also withheld the vote of confidence, also cited Badran's background as the main reason for his position.

"I call on the appointment of a new prime minister who enjoys popular confidence as well parliamentary confidence so that he can gradually move the system to a new constitutional course to which the people are not used yet," said Shbeilat, who had also withheld the vote of confidence from Zaid Rifa'i's government in 1985.

Shbeilat, however, sharply countered an attack on the government by Deputy Thouqan Al Hindawi, a former deputy prime minister during Rifa'i's rule. He said criticism levelled against the

Rifa'i government by ministers or senior officials of the era of the former prime minister was totally unacceptable since they themselves were part of it.

"I have to clarify to my brother Hindawi and some former ministers in Rifa'i's government who are today members of parliament that corruption and tyranny prevailed during that era and there were no men inside the government who acted according to their conscience and protested," Shbeilat said.

The declarations by the three deputies to withhold confidence in the cabinet were received by the loudest applause from more than 1,500 people who jammed the parliament gallery.

The Lower House resumes its session at 10.30 a.m. Monday with seven more deputies lined up to air their views and comments. The prime minister is expected to make a reply speech to the House, before the 80-member assembly takes a formal vote of confidence.

## Israelis

(Continued from page 1) Palestinian was shot dead by an unknown assailant at Bureij refugee camp on suspicion he cooperated with the Israeli occupation authorities, residents said.

During Saturday's rally, small groups of religious Jews in skull-caps hurled insults at the peace activists, and Israeli right-wing political parties condemned the demonstration.

Israel Radio quoted a statement by the far-right Moleket Party as saying the violence proved that only a separation of Jews and Arabs can end bloodshed in the Middle East.

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## Jordan Times

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## The hour before dawn is the darkest

THE EXTENSIVE and intensity of the ongoing parliamentary debate on granting or withholding the vote of confidence to Prime Minister Mudar Badran have surpassed all expectations. No-one doubted or even questioned the right of each and every member of Parliament to speak out in conformity with their respective political platforms or campaign slogans during the November elections, but few anticipated that the presentations of views on Prime Minister Badran's ministerial programme to take on an acrimonious style, which suggests that personal vendetta was the driving force behind some of the interventions. While it can be conceded that Badran's outline of policies, both domestic and foreign, fell short of expectations, it would be outrageous not to give him credit for the extent and degree he has gone to meet the demands of the parliamentarians as well as the voters who elected them more than half way. It is one thing to be critical of the half measures introduced by the government on the way to full democracy and quite another not to see and appreciate all that he has already done to satisfy the thirst of the Jordanians for full and complete democracy. For starters, it is quite legitimate and reasonable to call for a total lifting of martial law so that the country can be run more by law than by men where personal whims and arbitrary judgments would reign supreme. Yet, it would be unrealistic to expect a complete overnight transformation of the ways that the Kingdom is run. As long as there is a clear commitment to continue the process of democratisation and as long as the government of Badran would continue to be questioned and scrutinised all along the way of governing the country, it would be prudent to be reasonably patient with it. No-one would suggest that all is perfect or complete with the government of Badran. One doubts whether the prime minister thinks so. But the man deserves a chance to substantiate his across-the-board promise to introduce and institutionalise democracy in the country.

One probable explanation why the debate in Parliament took form and shape its look is the thirst for democracy. Having been deprived of opportunities to speak out on issues and subjects that concern the people most for over 22 years, it is easy to imagine how the "bellies" of the representatives of the people was ready to burst open from excesses of constraints and restraints. In some ways the country as a whole shares the responsibility for the outbursts that occurred on the Parliament floor.

Still the country is waiting impatiently for the drawn-out debates to end and the votes to be counted in favour of or against giving Badran and his team the vote of confidence. It is the judgement of many that he should be given this coveted vote of confidence. The next few hours should tell the final story on this subject.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai' Arabic daily Sunday discussed Parliament's marathon session during which deputies aired their views quite frankly and openly, paying tribute to or criticising the actions of various government ministers. The paper said that this procedure took place within the atmosphere of democracy which characterises this country and which opens the way for constructive work for the new government. But despite the criticism and conflicting views one can perceive an all-out support for the government's pledges to bolster the armed forces, enhance the elements of democracy and strengthen Parliament's stance in all fields, said the paper. The different views presented at the session constitute a healthy sign, and point to the fact that the legislative and the executive authorities are in for a long time partnership in handling the affairs of the Kingdom and serving national interests, the paper added. It said that the views of the deputies are bound to be reckoned with by the government which has pledged to adopt a democratic system and protect the national unity and put an end to all practices that had endangered national interests.

A columnist in Al Rai' Arabic daily sums up the events in 1989, a year which, he says, has witnessed a host of constructive developments on the local, regional and international levels. Mahmoud Al Rimawi notes that 1989 witnessed the return to democratic and parliamentary rule in Jordan, the formation of Arab economic groupings and reconciliation between Arab countries. Above all, the writer says, the past year witnessed an escalation of Palestinian resistance activity in the occupied Arab territories, and further support for the Palestinian people's rights by the Vatican and numerous foreign nations and peace-loving people around the world. Even Lebanon began to see the light again towards the end of the past year, with the election of a president and the gradual elimination of hostilities among the various factions, says Rimawi. 1989 was a year of a democratic resurgence in Eastern Europe where events have been influencing changes and situations in many parts of the globe, the writer adds. He expresses hope that the coming decade will carry for the Arab World further successes and peace.

Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper commented on Parliament's vote of confidence session held in a democratic atmosphere and freedom. The paper said that the Jordanian people take pride in watching their deputies openly and freely criticising governments with a view to avoiding blunders and errors in the future, and they feel hopeful that Jordan was finally catching up with the other nations which enjoy full democratic rule and freedom, said the paper. The paper also noted that the Jordanian people now look towards real and constructive cooperation between Parliament and any government in Jordan to be based on mutual respect and close coordination and total commitment to serving national interests. It said that the open and free debate in Parliament, whether the government wins a vote of confidence or not, indicates that the democratic process will be successfully given the right atmosphere and within the limits of law. The paper supported all responsible moves designed to offer service to the country and praised endeavours on the part of the government and Parliament to pave the way for a brighter future for Jordan.

## Monday's Political Pulse

# Arabs must share common infrastructures

THERE IS always the usual euphoria whenever two Arab countries restore broken diplomatic relations. And when last Wednesday, Cairo and Damascus resumed their full diplomatic relation, an aura of elation dominated the Arab World that gave cause to the belief that the beginning of the end of Arab anxiety about their future has been ushered in. What accentuated this sudden feeling of optimism is the central positions that both Syria and Egypt occupy in the heartland of the Arab World. It will be recalled that the long held view in the Middle East is that without Egypt the Middle East Arab states can never wage war and without Syria they cannot successfully sue for peace. This view gained currency when the Arab countries concerned sought strategic balance with Israel as a foundation for achieving an honourable settlement.

Yet on closer look, the restoration of diplomatic relations is not different from establishing them and at best such a step constitutes the bare minimum in relations between countries. And when one speaks of relations between brotherly or sisterly Arab countries, having and enjoying diplomatic relations is such a minimalist achievement that in the final analysis it adds very little and subtracts even less. In terms of substance as distinguished from appearances and diplomatic niceties and superficial protocol

considerations what gives credence and viability to the existence of diplomatic relations between any given countries is the extent of the meeting of the minds between them on issues and subjects, first of domestic nature and second of external importance. Thus diplomatic relations between two Communist countries which share similar domestic and external ideologies are more meaningful than those that exist between countries which share nothing in terms of how to govern their respective peoples and how to formulate and conduct foreign policies. Otherwise, relations between diametrically different countries would be like matching spouses with seriously divergent attitudes and personal traits and characteristics that are doomed to failure before they are constituted.

The primary problem that almost all the Arab countries face with one other is the perpetual existence of irreconcilable differences between them on matters that count most. And the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflicts without proper address and resolution by the Arab countries until now proves beyond a shadow of doubt that a consensus on an external foe, without parallel agreements on other fundamental issues and concerns affecting their domestic situations and external priorities and perspectives, would leave such a strategy shallow and void. Yet the Arab World is still witnessing the creation of constellations of

Arab groupings that lack harmony and deep understanding between the members of each of such groupings on matters that count most.

The fundamental point to be addressed in connection with the restoration of full diplomatic relations between Syria and Egypt is whether such resumed relations will promise homogeneity between the two Arab states on issues that are dominating the international scene, namely, the role of pluralism and the future of multi-party democracy within the two countries. And as long as the Arab countries continue to have very divergent perspectives and views on such subjects, any relations between them, whether it is coined as brotherly or sisterly, will remain hollow and devoid of real meaning and significance. This proposition would explain in part why the results of most, if not all, Arab summits are short-lived and end up being sand castles.

So while Arabs everywhere are rejoicing over the restoration of relations between Damascus and Cairo as they have indeed rejoiced when other Arab capitals took a similar course with Egypt, notably Jordan, their celebration over such positive steps will be more complete when Arab countries begin to relate to one another in matters of substance touching first upon their domestic ideologies and secondly on foreign pursuits and objectives.

By Dr. Waleed M. Sadi

## Dubcek restored to public life after long oblivion

By Gene Kramer  
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Week after week, despairing Czechoslovaks saw the troubled face of once-jawny Alexander Dubcek on their television screens imploring calmness and discipline while he waged a losing struggle to salvage some freedoms of the 1968 Prague Spring.

That was occupied Czechoslovakia in the first fall and winter after its Aug. 20-21, 1968, invasion by Soviet and other Warsaw Pact troops. The then-beloved Dubcek faded from view in late 1969 and was seldom mentioned publicly during a "Prague winter" that followed the Prague Spring and lasted a whole generation.

Czechoslovakia's political winter is ending now with a dramatic, Soviet-blessed peaceful rollback of the hard-line Communist rule forced on the country after the 1968 invasion.

A climax in Czechoslovakia's new revolution came with Dubcek's election Thursday as chairman of the federal assembly, restoring him to honour and position after two decades in political oblivion.

With it came the election Friday of dissident playwright Václav Havel as president of the

republic, Czechoslovakia's first non-Communist chief of state since Eduard Benes resigned in 1948.

Dubcek's return to official life is regarded as historic justice in a country that made him one of Communism's few idolised party leaders. Even Dubcek "fan clubs" were formed after the 1968 invasion to demonstrate backing of his efforts to save some of the Prague Spring reforms.

But popular demands now for multi-party democracy suggest Czechoslovaks will not settle in 1990 for what Dubcek offered them in that Prague Spring 22 years earlier — "socialism with a human face."

Dubcek said he wanted to transform Czechoslovakia's Stalinist system into a form of Communist rule that permitted free assembly and discussion of policies and no longer depended on censorship.

"Dubcek, a lifelong Communist, said in 1968 the Communists would preserve their monopoly of power not through repression, but by earning the right to lead and inspire the rest of society."

Today, as an ex-Communist, ousted from party leadership and later from membership, Dubcek has not said whether he seeks reinstatement. His latest state-

ments suggest a readiness to adapt to post-Communist reality.

A Czechoslovak-American, Ohio State University history and journalism Prof. Jiri Hochman, said the Communist Party "has become irrelevant and Dubcek must know it."

Still, "knowing him I would guess he would like to get back" in the party, Hochman added.

He said remarks by Dubcek in November 1968 in Bologna, Italy, about reforming Socialism showed he was "a faithful Marxist-Leninist."

In 1968, the Prague Spring euphoria in Czechoslovakia was marked by a series of cliff-hanging face-downs between the Dubcek camp and critics headed by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Dubcek argued passionately that popular Czechoslovak reforms, rather than weakening the system, would instead provide much-needed rejuvenation for Communism.

Dubcek lost the argument and his opportunity for reform when the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries invaded.

Even with Czechoslovakia occupied, popular outrage over the invasion and Czechoslovak unity enabled the "Dubcekists" hang on for many months of



Alexander Dubcek  
 struggle to preserve some freedoms.

Post-invasion unity, in fact, upset Soviet plans to install a puppet government and prompted the Kremlin to bring Dubcek, Prime Minister Oldrich Cernik and other arrested Prague leaders to Moscow to negotiate their resumption of office and a forced programme of "normalisation."

With a new slogan of "we are with you, be with us," the now-haggard, sad-faced Dubcek made frequent television appearances. He reaffirmed his pre-invasion

"action programme," while cautioning his countrymen not to provoke the Soviets, reminding them of the "realities" of their occupied country and often breaking bad news about necessary "normalisation measures."

These included dropping popular leaders, the "temporary" basing of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia under a new treaty that placed no deadline for their removal, and, in early 1969, gradual restoration of censorship.

Some critics say today that Dubcek acquiesced too easily, failing to exploit his own popularity and the country's solidarity.

Dubcek never once drew a line on the rollback and warned the Soviets not to cross it, said Dr. Jiri Kotas, a Czechoslovak who has lived in exile in Canada since 1979 and is organising a Conservative Party to contest Czechoslovakia's promised free elections next June.

Brezhnev slowly achieved the results he sought. Some said the Prague Spring really ended with the "ice hockey riots" at the end of March 1969.

Czechoslovakia's victory in a match with the Soviet Union at the Stockholm World Championships unleashed pent-up political feelings among Czechoslovaks. Dancing in the snow-co-

vered streets turned into anti-Soviet rioting, with trashing of the Prague office of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, burnings of Soviet military vehicles and forays against Red Army bases.

Moscow branded the episode a serious provocation and threatened to redeploy military force against civilians. Dubcek went on television with "an urgent request for peace and discipline."

On April 17, 1969, hard-liner Gustav Husak replaced him as party chief and Dubcek later became federal assembly chairman, ironically the same post he resumed Thursday.

In December 1969, Dubcek was sent as ambassador to Turkey, maintaining a low profile there for five months. Passing up apparent opportunity to defect to the West, he returned to Czechoslovakia and in mid-1970 was expelled from the Communist Party, one of the first of nearly 500,000 comrades to be purged.

Dubcek spent the ensuing years clerking and running a forestry office in Slovakia at a time when those who had been purged from the party were barred from high-profile jobs and forced to support themselves at menial work, furnace-stoking and other manual labour.

## The unthinkable becomes routine in East Germany

By Paul Taylor  
 Reuters

EAST BERLIN — In the space of a few weeks, the unthinkable has become routine in East Germany.

Changes which many residents did not expect to see in their lifetime have been adopted so rapidly that it is sometimes hard to remember how life was under the disgraced Stalinist leadership ousted in October.

The opening of the Berlin Wall, which sealed East Germany from the West from 1961 until Nov. 9, was the most visible symbol of revolutionary change.

But all over East German society, invisible walls of fear, mistrust and censorship have crumbled.

The East German News Agency (ADN) which once carried only Communist propaganda, now regularly reports opposition statements and demonstrations and carries critical articles on the country's enormous economic and political problems.

East Berlin newspapers, even those published directly by the Communist Party, have become almost indistinguishable from their West German counterparts in terms of critical content.

The East German press publishes the West German TV schedule next to the listing of East German stations, omitting only the times of news broadcasts, which everybody knows anyway.

East German papers have even printed the first advertisements for a West German brand of coffee unavailable in the East except in the few hard currency stores.

West German newspapers, until recently outlawed as hostile to socialism, are now on open display in East Berlin kiosks.

Die Welt, the militantly anti-Communist, nationalistic West German daily owned by the Axel Springer Company, is now distributed to subscribers in East Germany, a country whose name it used to print disdainfully between inverted commas.

East Germans rubbed their eyes when Western sex magazines went on sale for the first time in East Berlin this month. Such literature was strictly banned in the prudish Communist state.

Now East Germany is to have

its own first pin-up. The West German edition of Playboy magazine has chosen 21-year-old dentist's assistant Anja Nossak from Magdeburg as its playmate of the month for January.

And East Germany's state-run television gave viewers an erotic Christmas treat by showing a French sex film after midnight.

People are no longer afraid to discuss the hated secret police, nicknamed the Stasi, an abbreviation for the now-abolished Ministry for State Security.

For four decades, fear of the omnipresent Stasi prevented East Germans from expressing political views in public or to anyone except perhaps trusted friends and relatives.

The Stasi tapped telephones, opened mail, entrapped visitors and residents with black market currency and goods and maintained a vast network of informers.

Now East Germans hold public vigils outside old Stasi offices to demand the punishment of human rights violations.

Before the demise of the Stalinist autocracy, security police would pounce on human rights activists seconds after they unfurled protest banners in public, wrestling them to the ground and ripping up their placards.

Today, police look on indifferently as crowds march through city centres doing no less than waving West German flags, shouting anti-Communist slogans and demanding German reunification under West German terms.

Enchanted by their new freedoms, people sometimes gather spontaneously in the street to debate politics. Voices may rise in the heat of argument but there is no violence — tolerance for the views of others has become sacrosanct overnight here.

Despite the fact that 230,000 jobs are vacant because of the flight of skilled young East Germans to the West, former secret policemen made redundant by the new, reform-minded regime are finding it hard to get a job.

Communist Economics Minister Christa Luft complained at a meeting with opposition parties last week that it was unacceptable that former state security employees should be denied the right to work.

## N. Korea unlikely to be influenced by Romanian upheaval

By Kelly Tunney  
 The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's swift recognition of the new Romanian government was a surprise but does not suggest reforms of its rigid Communist system, Western analysts say.

"Hope for change is premature," said a Western diplomat in South Korea, speaking on condition of anonymity. "North Korea feels change in East Europe is the result of a bungled bureaucracy and since it has no bureaucracy, it feels it needs no reform and has no problem."

The North Korean government announced Wednesday it would "respect the road chosen by the Romanian people and recognise the Romanian National Salvation Front as the representative of the Romanian people."

The speed with which North Korea recognised the new government in Bucharest is considered surprising because of its close ties to the government of Nicolae Ceausescu. Analysts thought Ceausescu's fall would be difficult for North Korea to accept or explain to its citizens.

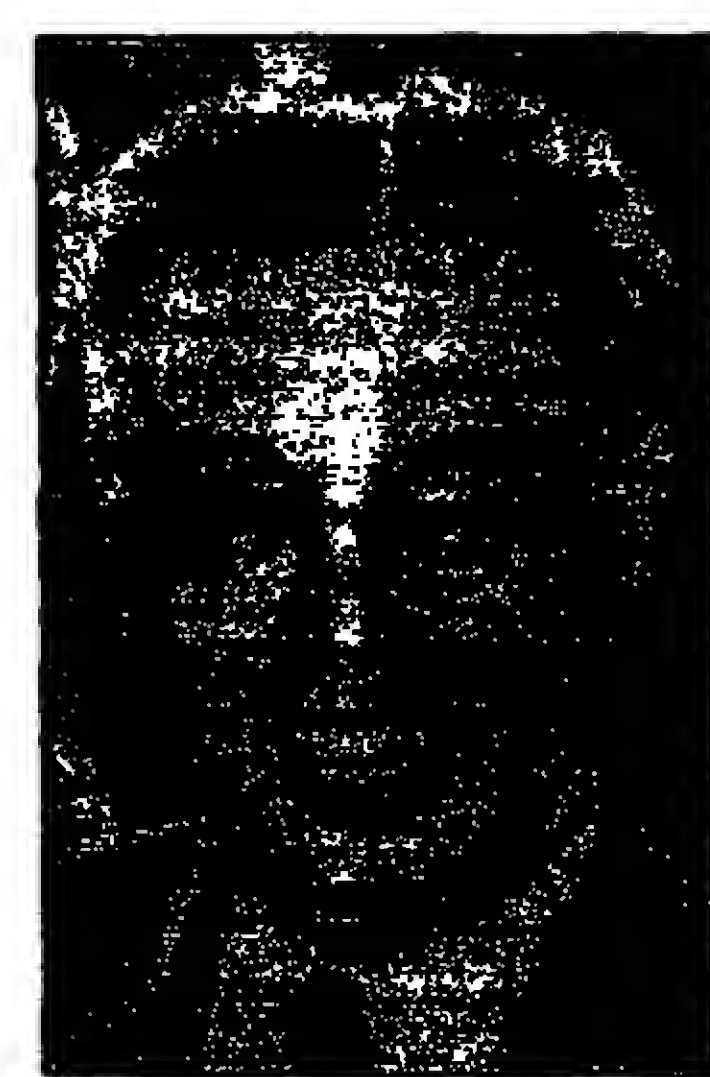
"We would have expected a period of confusion in North Korea," said the Western diplomat. He suggested North Korea felt a need to be pragmatic after China, its chief Communist ally and neighbour, also quickly recognised the new Romanian leadership.

Soon after recognising Romania, a commentary in North Korea's official Communist Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun urged fellow Communist nations to heighten vigilance and pool their strength against "imperialist" efforts to undermine socialism.

Without directly mentioning the fall of the Ceausescu dictatorship, it blamed "imperialists" for what it called a "scheme to make the most of changes in political and economic life in some Socialist countries."

North Korea called back its ambassadors from its Communist allies for an emergency meeting, apparently because of the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, a South Korean cabinet member has said.

North Korea's ambassadors to



Kim Il Sung

30 countries, including China and the Soviet Union, were apparently convened one month ahead of schedule to discuss the radical liberalisation in many of its Communist allies, Unification Minister Lee Hong-Ku said in Seoul.

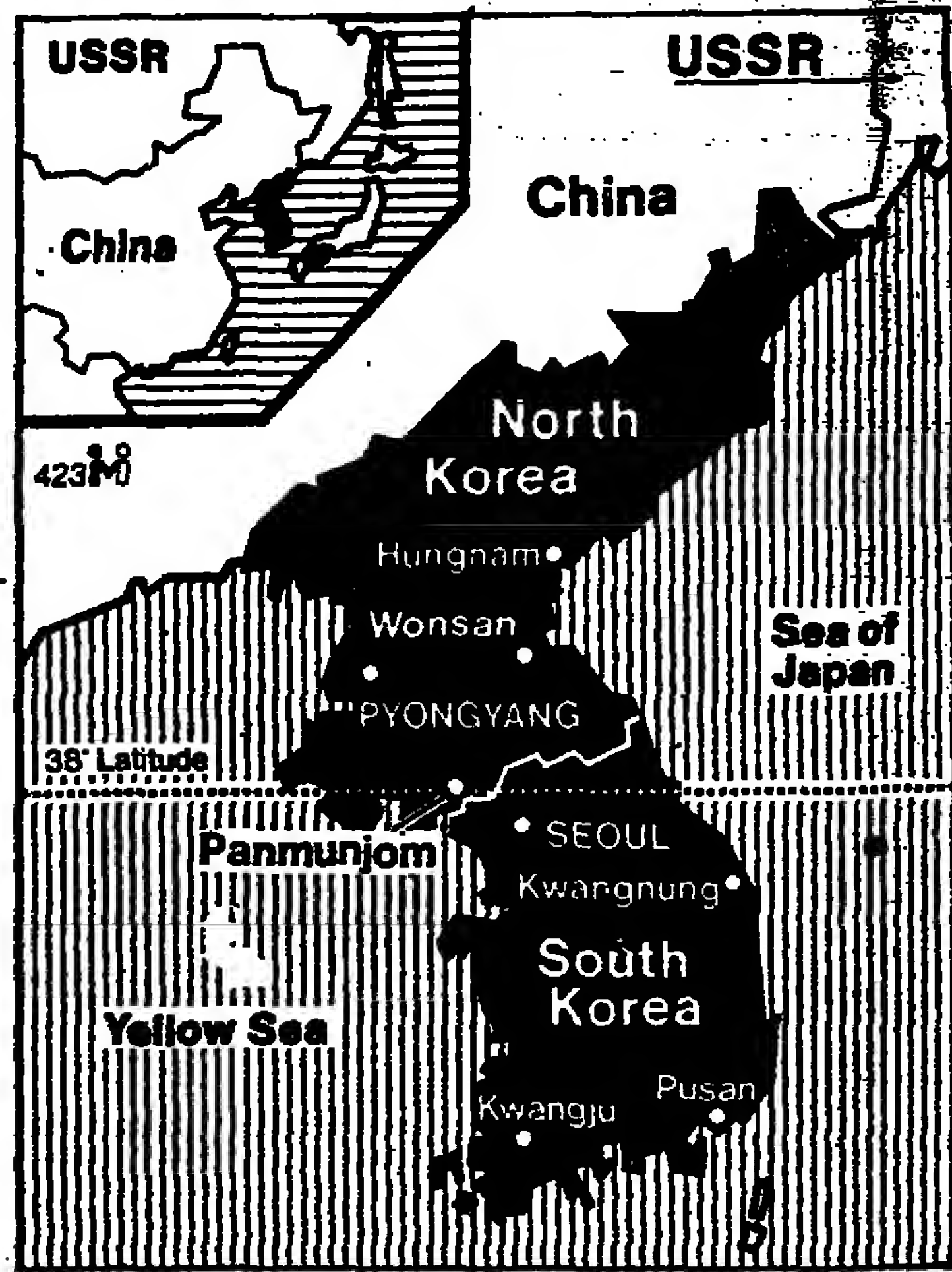
Ceausescu, who was executed Monday along with his wife, was the last hard-line Communist leader in the Warsaw Pact. He and North Korean leader Kim Il Sung maintained close ties, shared repressive leadership styles and referred to each other as "brother."

South Korea's media have given full coverage of the collapse of Romania's authoritarian government, and commentators have predicted that North Korea risks bloodshed like Romania if it fails to change.

"The North Korean leadership may well realise that its days are numbered," said a Korea Times editorial, adding that Romania "will hopefully serve as a grave warning to the Pyongyang leadership."

A Korea Herald editorial said: "few expected he (Ceausescu) could be toppled so quickly and easily. The Pyongyang regime must realise that change will be the only option it will have in the very near future."

But U.S. and South Korean observers see little possibility of a popular uprising in the North, where any hint of dissent is crushed and news is tightly controlled. Radio dials are locked on government stations.



But U.S. and South Korean observers see little possibility of a popular uprising in the North, where any hint of dissent is crushed and news is tightly controlled. Radio dials are locked on government stations.

"A news blockade (about Romania) may be the only choice they can make," said Kim Chang-Soon, president of South Korea's government-funded North Korean Affairs Research Institute.

"The North Korean government continues to hold sway, seemingly uninfluenced by the winds of change blowing across so many other Communist states," South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo said in a Christmas address.

Living in isolation, North Koreans have no access to Western television, publications or merchandise and they cannot travel outside the communities in which they live without permission.

The Korean peninsula was divided in 1945, and the 250-kilometre demilitarised zone between the rival Koreas is patrolled by 1.5 million heavily armed troops.

Despite a flurry of North-South talks this year, there's been little progress and the countries remain enemies.

North Korea has retained ties with East Bloc allies undergoing major changes, but it had shared a special kinship with Romania. Only last month Pyongyang sent a congratulatory message to the 14th Romanian Communist Party congress in which it stressed a joint struggle against capitalism. A few weeks ago North Korea's Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam reportedly visited Bucharest to reaffirm relations between the two nations.

North Korea remains a rigid totalitarian regime under Kim Il Sung, who has dominated the country since the late 1940s. The 77-year-old Kim has designated his son, Kim Jong Il, as his political heir in what would be the Communist World's first family dynasty.

Most South Korean and U.S. observers say there is virtually no chance of change in North Korea while Kim Il Sung remains in control. They say his son Kim Jong Il appears determined to continue the system.

## Italy's film school aims for number 1 slot

By Clare Padrick

ROME — Italians are fond of saying that in spite of all his faults, Benito Mussolini made the trains run on time. Perhaps they should also add that it was he who helped put Italy on the map in the world of cinema. Back in the 1930s, spurred on by his film-buff son Vittorio, the late Fascist dictator built Cinecittà, a giant studio complex on the outskirts of Rome that was to become famous as the Italian Hollywood.

Today, the film school that grew up beside the movie studio is celebrating more than 50 years in the business with a major facelift to regain its place as one of the world's finest training grounds for budding actors, directors and scriptwriters.

The school's grandiose title — Centro Sperimentale Cinematografico (Experimental Centre for Cinematography) — is still unmistakably Mussolinian. So, too, is the building, a classic example of Fascist-era architecture. Everything else, though, is strictly late 20th century. After closing its doors for more than a year, the centre has re-opened with some of the latest high-tech production equipment and a determination to re-establish itself as a magnet for young filmmakers.

In charge of the centre is 41-year-old Caterina d'Amico, an energetic personality with a pas-

sion for movies and a talent for organising. "For years this school was one of the most highly regarded in the world," said d'Amico. "It was the oldest and most avant-garde, and it grew to become a pivotal point in the world's film culture. As the years passed it became old-fashioned and outdated, like anything that starts out ahead of its time. Our aim is to restore it to its former role and to turn it into the best film school in Europe." With funding from Italy's Ministry of Sports and Entertainment, the school has already replaced all of its dubbing and sound equipment and is currently rebuilding its cinema, TV and film studios, with state-of-the-art techniques for creating special effects.

An early priority was updating the film library. "We are the state film archive, so it is our duty to preserve all the old copies," said d'Amico. The task has meant months of work for the archive staff, tracking down every film ever made in Italy and restoring those in poor condition. All the movies are now stored in special temperature-controlled units to preserve the quality and colour of the film.

With a background solidly rooted in the entertainment business, d'Amico is an appropriate choice to spearhead the modernisation of the centre. Her grandfather founded the

Academy of Dramatic Arts, the state acting college. Her father, Fedele d'Amico, is the music critic for the newsmagazine "l'Espresso." Her mother, Suso Cocchi d'Amico, is a well-known screenplay writer who has worked with some of Italy's most illustrious directors, including De Sica, Rosi and Visconti.

Caterina d'Amico herself already has a long career behind her. She has directed plays for the theatre, made television documentaries, worked on the technical side of dozens of movies and written books on set design for the cinema.

Like d'Amico, most of the school's staff are drawn from the Italian film world. "We try to get teachers who are professionals but who are prepared to take a break from making movies to help train the next generation," she said. "For example, our cinematography department is headed by one of the world's most highly regarded names, Giuseppe Rotunno. He's agreed to work here for two years and then he'll go back to the cinema."

Other leading figures have pledged to help out on a temporary basis. A recent visitor to the school was the Italian-American director, Francis Ford Coppola, famous for such movies as "The Godfather" and "Apocalypse Now." Federico Fellini, Giglio Pontecorvo and the late Sergio

Leone have all given lectures, and Bernardo Bertolucci has promised to give a talk once he had finished work on his latest movie.

Competition for the school's 90 places is intense, with candidates applying from all corners of the globe. This year's incoming class includes pupils from France, Britain, Austria, Brazil, Greece, Lebanon and Tunisia. Aged between 19 and 25, the students can choose from 10 different courses that include directing, screenplay writing, set design, acting and cartoon-making.

Staff who select the candidates look for aptitude and enthusiasm rather than experience, d'Amico said. "It's always a gamble, and sometimes we make mistakes, but generally we are interested in a person's ideas and personality. Of course, candidates for the cinematography course usually have some experience since that side is more technical — many of them have already worked as assistant cameramen. But for screenplay writing it's more important that they have a certain outlook and sense of curiosity. If they can't write, it doesn't matter. We are a school and it's our job to teach them, but if they don't have ideas then there's nothing we can do to help them."

The new impetus at the Centro Sperimentale coincides with a revival in the Italian cinema, after

years of being eclipsed by the movie industry on the other side of the Atlantic. And in spite of its ambitions to become Europe's leading film school, the centre aims to hold onto the style that made Italy famous, says d'Amico: "I think our cinema lost a lot of its force and power when it began to get too international. The Italian cinema is very different from the American one. I personally like and admire the movies that come out of the States, but it's not by copying them that we will improve our own industry. I think it's extremely important that we preserve the national characteristics for which we became renowned."

The Italian cinema has always been known in the world as one based very much on realism, on the everyday details of life," she added. "It's more personal, more hand-made than other traditions, and that's something we are anxious to retain at the school, even though we're quite prepared to let our students experiment with other styles, such as science fiction."

Among the new generation of Italian filmmakers, d'Amico cites Marco Risi, Giuseppe Tornatore, Maurizio Nichetti, Tognazzi and Nanni Moretti as some of the most outstanding talents. Nichetti won this year's Moscow film festival award with "Ladri di Saponette" ("The Soap



Refurbishing and endowed with state-of-the-art equipment, Italy's once-famous cinema school is ready again to attract the best and brightest in the movie world.

Thieves"), a comedy shot in a mixture of black and white and colour, which takes an ironic look at the relationship between movies and advertising.

Tornatore, just 31, won the Critics' Award at this year's Cannes festival for "Nuovo Cinema Paradiso" (literally, "New Cinema Heaven"). He is now working on his third movie, with international movie idol Marcello Mas-

troiani in the leading role. "All of these directors are under 40 and all are extremely good filmmakers, each in a different way," d'Amico said. "As yet they are probably not that well known abroad, partly because of the question of language, but if they're not, they certainly should be."

"Italy has always played a leading role in the cinema, perhaps because we are a nation of craftsmen and because art has historically been so important to us," she added. "For such a small country, we have produced an astonishing number of set designers and cameramen and exported them all over the world. Our aim here at the centre is to make sure that Italy holds onto that tradition." —World News Link

## Filipinos establish zones of peace

By Jon Miller

MANILA — As more Filipinos resort to violence as a means of expression, some communities are reacting to try and break the endless cycle of violence and retribution.

Take the case of Sagada. On Oct. 28, 1988 a drunken member of the Philippine Constabulary fired his rifle into a crowded marketplace in this small northern Philippine town, and two children — one aged 17, the other aged 4 — were killed. The next day the townspeople, members of the Kankay tribe native to the rugged Cordillera mountains, gathered on the basketball court in the centre of the town and demanded that the soldiers leave.

But Sagada is in the heart of a war zone, and the soldiers, who were there to finish out guerrillas of the Communist-led New People's Army (NPA), said that abandoning the town would be tantamount to surrender. As a compromise, the constabulary unit offered to move its base from the centrally located municipal hall to a school building a few hundred metres away.

Two weeks later, the NPA attacked the school. The rebels claimed that the attack was in retaliation for the deaths of the two children, but the plan backfired. During the raid a 12-year-old boy, the son of a school-teacher, was killed by a stray bullet.

The people of Sagada again gathered to express their outrage, and that evening the town elders

met to make an important decision. Sagadans were sick and tired of war. The town — already a haven for artists and nature lovers — would become a zone of peace.

Of course, such complicated situations aren't resolved easily, and in the past year Sagada has had almost as many setbacks as advances. There has been more fighting, and the town's agricultural economy has continued to suffer. And although both the government forces and the NPA have greatly reduced their presence, neither group has formally accepted the town's peace plan.

But Risa Hontiveros, secretary general of the Manila-based Coalition for Peace, says that the lesson from Sagada is an encouraging one. "People in the war zones," she says, "are working up the physical courage to stand up and tell the armed groups to stop."

There are now three such "zones of peace" in the Philippines, each in an area where fighting between the military and the NPA has been especially fierce. In recent months three more communities have approached the coalition for advice on how to decide themselves off-limits to armed conflict, and the idea of cease-fire zones has become a topic of serious debate in Manila.

In a country abounding with advocacy groups, the Philippine peace movement is just now beginning to come into its own. Hontiveros says that there are roughly 60 groups in the Coalition for Peace, about half of them

from Manila, adding that their political orientation "runs from centre to left." They include representatives from each of the country's major religions. "The peace idea is finally picking up steam," she notes.

It's been a long time coming. The NPA, the militant wing of the outlawed, Maoist-oriented Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), was born in the late 1960s. The renegade group gathered strength as Filipinos became disgusted with the massive corruption, mismanagement of the economy and near-destruction of basic political rights that were the hallmarks of the late Ferdinand Marcos' regime.

At the height of its power during the mid-1980s, the NPA claimed to have more than 20,000 guerrillas fighting in at least 59 of the country's 73 provinces. As many as 20 per cent of the population, mainly in the poor rural areas, were believed to support the guerrillas' aims. The latest military figures put the NPA's strength at just below 20,000, although most observers consider that number too high.

There are no reliable statistics on casualties, but the government estimates that nearly 4,000 people were killed in NPA-related incidents in 1988. The NPA is known for its ruthless tactics — assassinations, murders of villagers who speak out against it and mock trials at which members considered "suspect" are summarily judged and executed. Human rights groups say that there are also thousands of "internal refugees" — people who have lost their homes and have fled the areas where fighting has been the heaviest.

Most analysts agree that the government has gained the upper hand in the fighting, at least for the time being. Elite military units are being sent into the areas where the NPA operates, and they work directly with the villagers by providing education, medical supplies and practical help. The campaign appears to be succeeding. Meanwhile, several top communist officials have been captured and hundreds of party members have defected to the government. The rebels also lost support after news of bloody in-

ternal purges reached the public during 1989.

Military leaders have told President Corason Aquino that they expect to win the war against the guerrillas by the end of her term in 1992. Both military and NPA forces have said that they are willing to negotiate a cease-fire, but each has set preconditions that are unacceptable to the other.

So where does peace fit into the picture? Hontiveros, a 23-year-old former television public affairs host and now a community organiser, admits that the national leadership of both adversaries is committed to achieving a military victory. For them, she says, "a peace initiative is just a threat to a war initiative." At the local and regional levels, though, peace groups are gaining ground. For it is in the countryside that "combat fatigue" is most prevalent.

Yet impatience has rarely been enough to get the Filipinos moving. Some analysts say that a politically passive population must share some of the blame for the fighting and even for the

economic conditions that spawned it. Still, the defeat of Marcos in 1986 raised popular expectations, and now, Hontiveros says, people are becoming fed up.

Much of that is the government's own doing. Social services have been slow to reach remote areas. In the meantime, President Aquino has allowed private organisations — many of them critical of official policies — to engage in community organising in the countryside, and this has made people aware that their own actions can make a difference.

Hontiveros says that impatience is a necessary precondition for peace. The war itself is a result of economic and social problems, and peace makes sense to people if they can see that it can lead to positive changes in their lives. War, instead of being a fact of life, becomes an obstacle.

"People are more and more unable to go out and farm their fields, or to organise themselves peacefully to address their difficulties because of the increasing intolerance that arms bring into

the picture," she adds.

So, although social-change groups here have traditionally said that the alleviation of poverty is a necessary first step toward ending the conflict, the Coalition for Peace holds that the fighting may have to stop before the problem of poverty can be tackled.

But where is the precedent for resolving conflicts without violence in this country? A quick glance at any Filipino movie marketplace is enough to prove that guns are a big part of the national landscape. In towns like Sagada, where different tribes have lived side by side for centuries, there are rich traditions of treaty-making and negotiation. But those traditions are alien to most Filipinos. Perhaps, Hontiveros says, her compatriots can learn from the experiences of other countries.

If "waging peace" means inventing new traditions in the Philippines, she says, then so be it. That approach has opened the Coalition for Peace to charges that it is politically naive, but Hontiveros answers that it is

naive to believe that ordinary people are powerless to effect changes in the national life.

"We have to choose to believe that there is hope," she says, "and not hope in government but hope in our capacity to compel them to respond, if not from a sense of moral obligation then at least from a sense of political necessity."

"We thrive in a situation that is participative and democratic, and armed confrontation is neither," she explains. "Armies by their nature have to be centralised. There's less room for disagreement than in a non-armed setting. There's less room for experimentation, for innovation, and certainly there's less room for dialogue with the 'enemy'."

Are the Filipinos ready for peace? "I wish I could say yes," she says. "But then her resolve stiffens. 'You know, we human beings, we really can change. Even the most hardened of persons. We can. But how to get that organisational expression — that's the thing that this movement is working on' — World News Link

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